

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-16 and 18-33 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended by essentially incorporating the subject matter of claim 2 and as supported in the present specification including at page 8, lines 9-13 and page 11, lines 1-6. Claim 2 has accordingly been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-11 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Anderson et al taken with Sugiyama et al. The cited references do not make the presently claimed invention to be obvious.

Anderson et al. discloses an ink receptor (an ink-receptive layer) that contains a wet process silica of silane group (STS: surfactant templated silica particles) as particles (see column 7, lines 6-49 of the reference). Importantly, there is no teaching or suggestion of an important feature of the presently claimed invention, namely, an ink-receptive layer which contains at least one of inorganic fine particles selected from fumed silica, alumina and alumina hydrate, and these particles are inorganic fine particles having an average particle size of the primary particle of 5 to 30 nm.

The teachings of the cited reference, Sugiyama et al. do not remedy this defect.

Accordingly, the applicants submit that the presently claimed invention is nowhere disclosed, suggested or made obvious by the teachings of Anderson et al. taken with those of Sugiyama et al.

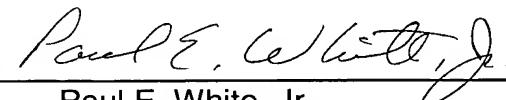
Further, the presently claimed invention, as recited in claim 1, provides excellent effects that yield an ink-jet recording material having high printing density and sharp image (as described at page 8, lines 9-13 of the present specification), and improved transparency, ink-absorption property and surface strength (as described at page 10, line 36 to page 11, line 5 of the specification) compared to the composition obtained by the combination of Anderson and Sugiyama.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would not have a reasonable expectation of resulting in the presently claimed invention based upon the teachings of Anderson and Sugiyama. The present claims are fully allowable under 35 USC 103(a) in view of the cited art.

In view of the above, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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